

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. LOUISE WEDDINGTON CARSON

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Mrs. Sandra Lynn Card

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Carson: Now, one thing, I don't tell my age. Is it all right if I don't you know? I was born with?.... but ain't ever gonna tell my age.

Sandra: So you won't tell what year you were born in?

Carson: No. My mother never believed in telling her age or anything to anyone and she stayed very young and very lovely lady. And she has so many different friends, women, and all they were doing, "I'm getting old, oh look at me. Look at the lines on my face." And mother said that is the quickest way to get old, she told me.

Dodson: I think that's true, yes.

Sandra: That's true.

Dodson: It's not how you feel, it's how others insists on treating you.

Carson: Now, that is correct!

Sandra: Well, you've certainly been young at heart and very alive and...

Carson: Yes.

Sandra: ...intelligent and...

Carson: Sure, you'd hate to be, you know.

Sandra: and it shows.

Carson: Yeah, it's your outlook on life. It's everything anyway.

Dodson: Right! Now, one thing that I think you won't object to telling us is where you were born.

Carson: Oh yes, I'll tell you. Do you want me to start now?

Dodson: Yes. We would like to know that.

Carson: All right, it's not going there is it?

Dodson: Yes it is.

Carson: Oh my heavens, here I'm talking! Ha ha ha... I was born in Lankershim, where the El Portal Theater stands. That was our ranch.

Dodson: Was that right?

Carson: We had the big red barn at the back and it was all fenced in and closed for our horses, our ponies, our hogs, our cows. And all the animals were there and the mules at the back end because they would go down and bring in the pumpkins on the wagon, up to our house again and in the back at the barn. Because the horses, and cows, and all of them loved pumpkin.

Dodson: That's right.

Carson: Oh! It's a feast for them to get pumpkin.

Sandra: How much property did you guys have?

Carson: All together?

Sandra: Within the valley.

- Carson: Well, I'd say here in the valley, when my grandfather arrived, Wilson C. Weddington, and that was in 1881 he came in. And he begin to buy property. And he bought a good many of acres and acres here. And Isaac Lankershim owned most of the valley at that time up on the hill there. And, so that's the way the Weddingtons, he was my grandfather, and my father was Guy Weddington and they worked awfully hard in those days. It didn't come easy and my grandfather, he worked very hard too, and they made it, by working.
- Sandra: What type of work did they do?
- Carson: Farming. We had farms. We had, down here where you are right now, this was the plums, apricots, and peaches was right where I'm sitting now. And this used to go up to the Bonner Fruit Company, the fruit from here. And across from Tujunga, all the way down to Ventura Boulevard, we had apples, and we had peaches, plums, and apricots. Every kind of fruit.
- Dodson: Did apples do well in the valley?
- Carson: They did very well.
- Dodson: Is that right?
- Carson: Yeah.
- Dodson: I don't associate them with the valley usually.
- Carson: That's true, we did. And, what we would do, we would have the apples brought up and my grandfather had a little house out in the back by the corn crib clear along there. And he would, have his machine going, and he would make apple juice. Oh, gallons of apple

juice! And all the neighbors and people would come and buy the apple juice. And the same way with all the corn that was brought up, including this big long thing by the red barn, and then it would be cut in certain times, and that would be sold. And it was real farming life, you can see that. And so he just loved that life. My grandfather, we had the horse ...?... to go a calling. And I would go with my grandfather down to almost Ventura Boulevard, where the river is. As you go over Vineland, you know where Howard Johnson's is? And right down below Howard Johnson's right there was a great, big pumpkin patch! And I would go with him in the buggy and then we'd get down there. And I'd get out and he'd get everything set with his poison for the squirrels who were eating things up as fast as they would try to save them! Ha ha ha... And so anyway, it was wonderful and now I can look back on it. Going with him down there and saving the pumpkins and everything. And on the wall here, in the living room, is a picture of the ground I'm talking about. There, where that wall in the orchard is, is where Howard Johnson's is now on that property.

Dodson: It's hard to imagine such a change!

Carson: Yes, it would be.

Sandra: You know, there are no houses or buildings at all, no trees, no ...?...

Carson: Oh no, oh, that's right. That's what it was and uh, that down there you look below, is the pumpkin patch. And those trees over there, to the right over there, was the river running along there. And that up there is Universal City, the hills of University City.

Dodson: Was there much water in the river at that time?

Carson: Yes, we had quite a nice bunch of water. Yes there was water down there.

Dodson: Did it flow all the year round? Or?

Carson: It did, uh huh. It didn't, you know, overflow or anything, but it was a nice, rapid water running along all the time.

Dodson: Was much use made of it, for irrigation or anything like that?

Carson: Not for irrigation, no. A lot of people would go down there and get water, and take it home and drink it. But they didn't do it for irrigation in those days.

Dodson: Now, how did your family get it's water supply? Did you have wells, or what?

Carson: That's what we had to do in those days, have wells.

Dodson: That's what I thought.

Carson: That's right. We had the old tankhouse up where the house was. Where I was born, the El Portal Theater Stands and that was the tankhouse that we got our water from. And the mill, it would go up round and round up above, you see? And uh, we didn't have the conveniences, but people seemed to be happy in those days. They had so many other things. I think, you know. This is a fast moving world but, in those days, everybody had time to talk and chat with one another. And enjoyed each other's company.

- Dodson: Well, would you say that they did more things themselves, where now we just look at something. Like television or movies or something?
- Carson: That is right! You did it. You worked to have those things. Like you sit and watch television now while we, my brothers and my parents, they would work to get the things. But, we didn't know anything else, so we were happy, you see. It was really very nice. I remember one night we were having dinner and uh, all of a sudden a terrible electrical storm hit. And I never look at peas unless I think of it. And all of a sudden there was lightning and our plates went to the floor. And the peas, and the meats, everything went on the floor. And it went right through and struck our huge tree out there by the barn.
- Dodson: Is that right?
- Carson: And splintered it to nothing! That was...
- Dodson: I suppose it would've if the bolt struck it directly.
- Sandra: Was there a fire?
- Carson: The funny part, we thought the house caught on fire, but it didn't. We think because it carried it out, it didn't stay. If it had stopped, we would have the whole house burning, evidently. But it went right straight through our little dining room and out it went again. And hit the trees!
- Dodson: And nobody felt anything? As it went through, you didn't get any kind of a shock?
- Carson: Uh, yes we were shocked, we were frightened, I think.

It was so sudden on us, nobody could, was expecting...

Sandra: You mean, with the house too?

Carson: It had to come in...

Sandra: But it didn't catch the house anywhere?

Carson: No, no. ~~It was a miracle!~~

Sandra: That is a miracle!

Carson: Yes, that was a miracle. It couldn't have happened twice.

Dodson: No, that's certainly true.

Carson: And I never think of it unless I'm ...?... Ha ha ha... You know, and we were, you know you go to a place and you order peas, and it makes me think of it. Eating, you know, it makes me think of it, sitting at a table, and saying to myself, "This time it better not come again!" Ha ha ha...

Dodson: You wouldn't have it starting outside while you were eating?

Carson: No thank you! That's right!

Dodson: Where did your grandfather come from before he came to the valley?

Carson: He came from Indiana, and then they settled in Salt Lake, Iowa. And my father was born in Winterset and the brother Fred, was born in Salt Lake. And the grandmother Mary Ann Weddington, who married Wilson

C. Weddington, her father was a big doctor. And his name was Doctor Rutledge and then they decided to come here because Mr. Andrews came out here and was working. And he thought it was something but he was just looking around, you know, just the grounds. He wrote home to tell them all because he was married to Daddy, I always call him Daddy, my grandfather he was married to his [Andrew's] sister Molly, who was ...?... So, that got them to thinking about going to California, that's when they made up their mind that they would come. And when they left back there, why, they took the house down, they put everything all loaded up on the train, and they landed in Burbank. And when they got to Burbank, it had to be taken down in pieces and parts and brought to Lankershim. It was Toluca then, and then it was Lankershim. And then rebuilt, and put the house back together.

Dodson: That's amazing! To bring the house with you!

Carson: They did think in those days, didn't they?

Dodson: They certainly did!

Carson: They knew they didn't have no other way to go, so they did it, you know. And...

Dodson: No, perhaps we should say for the benefit of somebody who is listening later, that Lankershim is now North Hollywood and Toluca Lake in that area. Because they might wonder just what we were talking about.

Carson: They wouldn't know. They wouldn't understand it you know, it's almost unbelievable what has taken place, you know.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: And it always have been a beautiful, the whole valley have really been a beautiful place. And I was in Chatsworth and Owensmouth and all those places were just beautiful. Green and wheat fields and all those things out there, you know. And it's been in the last few years that we had so many different people coming in, really taking a lot of that beauty out.

Dodson: Yes, of course there was open spaces that are practically gone now.

Carson: Oh yes. They were wide open spaces, you can see for miles and miles and see farms and ranches and wheat fields and all those kind of things, you know? But, there's nothing there anymore.

Sandra: When you were a little girl, what type of institution did you go to, to get from one place to the other?

Carson: Uh, we generally go in the uhm, well, first it was horse and buggy, when we first started out. And then we went into cars, I remember my father bought his first car, as transportation. And then they brought in the trolley car, the red street car in through North Hollywood and into Van Nuys there, all the way through. And that's how people travel in those days. They thought nothing of going in a street car and going to Los Angeles. And it was a long ride, a long trip in those days.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: Uh huh.

Dodson: I imagine that was pretty exciting when the first street cars came in, then?

Carson: Oh, that was big time! Everybody come out for that! That was a big time. Yeah, every body was happy about it, you know, to see all that. And everybody all waving and talking to one another, you know. It was a joy to them because they were out here in this little one horse ...?... with coyotes at night, howling. And I was talking to my brother and he says, he remembers when he was a little boy growing up. He had the paper round and he would start out, on his paper round, and land down here on uh, Tujunga and Riverside, and that's where the Osborne [?] , the old Osborne family lived for many, many years. And those coyotes would go "Oooooohhhh" and he was all alone, and he was about thirteen and scared to death! We were laughing about it, you know. And he would be frighten because nobody was around. Here you are on a bicycle and a bunch of papers and all the howling animals, you know. And a lot of chickens ranches. We had big chicken farms. It turned out to be one of the best farms here in the valley.

Dodson: I understand there were quite a few of those at one time in the valley?

Carson: That's right. At one time, and they had beautiful chickens. The eggs were very good and they were well fed, you know. And...

Sandra: Were people, when... today, when you get on the bus or something the general atmosphere of the people were afraid.

Carson: No.

Sandra: But I'm wondering, how were they in the trolley cars?

Carson: Very, very friendly. Everybody was very nice to one another. In those days, people had more of that because I guess, they didn't have television, and we didn't have things. We depended on each other. You can see how that would be, that makes sense.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: Doesn't it?

Dodson: It would make quite a bit of difference.

Carson: Wouldn't it.

Dodson: I can see that.

Carson: Yes, it made a great difference. And it was really nice of people.

Dodson: You've mentioned the Lankershims. Did you know any members of the Lankershims' family?

Carson: My uncle, Mr. Fred Weddington, had all his riding horses out there with the uh, Lankershims. Up on the hill. Right up on these hills. That's where he had his home and horses up there and Mr. Weddington took, I don't know how many spaces, in his barns, to keep his up there, where Mr. Lankershims' was.

Dodson: I see. I was never quite sure where the Lankershims' house was located out here in this valley.

Carson: It was at, you go right straight down Vineland, and cross Ventura, and get back up into the hills. And

that's where it is, where it was.

Dodson: I see. It was up in the hill area?

Carson: Oh yes. Up on the hill. You can look out there.

Dodson: I understand the house is gone completely. Is that your understanding?

Carson: Yes... I've been told that and I know it's gone now. Uh huh. That was quite a place, in those days, that place up there, that home.

Dodson: Yes I suppose now, if it was still there, we'd make it a historical monument and it would stay.

Carson: It would stay, yes. We felt badly when they tore it down. Things like that you shouldn't destroy, you should keep them, you know? Well, sometimes, they just take them.

Dodson: Then his son, James Boone Lankershim, was prominent in the valley.

Carson: Very, very! My uncle knew him very well, Mr. Weddington. He knew the family very well, for many years.

Sandra: What did you guys used to do for fun in the valley?

Carson: For what?

Sandra: As a teenager, what did you guys do for fun?

Carson: Oh, we had more fun.

Sandra: What did you do?

Carson: Why gee, we'd all get together and we'd all threw parties at each other's homes. In the evenings, especially on Saturday nights we'd all dance and we just all have a wonderful time. And all like the Blanchard Lumber Company in North Hollywood, which was Lankershim, and the two boys, and the sisters, and myself, and I had a cousin Leona Davis and she would come over and stay at our house for the weekend. And we had so much fun that way. Parties and things.

Sandra: Did you have music?

Carson: Well, we had our victrola. Ha ha ha...

Sandra: Your what?

Carson: Victrola.

Sandra: What's that?

Carson: A victrola is a square box, and you put your records on and you could have your music. And up to beat, at that time we've got good music.

Dodson: It's what you'd call a stereo now. Ha ha ha...

Carson: Is that what you'd call it now? Yes?

Dodson: That's what you'd call it now.

Sandra: I see.

Carson: Yep. That was...

Dodson: Did you like to go to the beach in those days?

- Carson: Oh yes! Great beach people! We loved the beach. We were close to the beach. Living here, it wasn't any trouble to get to the beach, you see. And we'd go to the beach and I remember very well that my father would rent a house for the summer months. Down at Ocean park and Venice, it used to be a lovely beach. But you'd be afraid to go in there now. Ha ha ha... And...
- Dodson: Yes.
- Carson: And, yes you would. You wouldn't stay there overnight. And we had lots of fun. We'd stay there for July and August. And father would come down for the weekends. And our friends would come and the kids would stay with us two or three days, just friends. We had a real nice summer, at the beach down there.
- Dodson: There was quite an amusement pier down there at one time, wasn't there?
- Carson: Oh yes! We had everything. We spent the whole afternoon riding that roller coaster. And that was dangerous, but you know how the young 'uns are, they want to be on something that's dangerous, you know. And then we had the uh, all the different things, all the way out on the pier was all the different things that you can take and go on. And everybody would go down to Venice and Ocean Park and they wouldn't miss a thing. They had one big time. Riding on, they had the merry-go-round, and they had the uh, it was the uh...I can't remember exactly, but it was something you'd climb up the stairs and then you would get on and there were big bumps and then you'd go all the way over the hill all the way down. And us kids liked that, we thought that was fun, you see. So we really had a, it was

very very nice out on the beach, in those days. And so many families and people you know would all come down there when you're staying down there, you know. And then they'd be merry, like one big family. And the ocean was lovely and we swam every day in the water. Oh, it was really fun. And they had those trams down there. And if you wanted to go down from Venice to Ocean Park, you'd get on the trams. And the big white sidewalk right in front of the ocean you'd look out on the front of the ocean. And it would take you to Ocean Park and further up to Santa Monica. When you go up on the tram, and up on up further. That was a beautiful little ride.

Dodson: I seem to remember that, I think that was still in existence when I came out.

Carson: It might have been, it might have been when you were here. I'd imagine that was just about the last of it wasn't it?

Dodson: I'd expect so.

Carson: Yeah. It was just about the end of it. So, it was lots of good visiting people. People think, oh those poor people, they had no fun. But they really had a pretty nice life. They worked hard, we all worked hard, but we had a nice time anyway. You see?

Dodson: Didn't your family have a store at one time?

Carson: Yes, we had our store. It was a dry good store. And the first store we had was a grocery store!

Dodson: That's what I thought that I had heard.

- Carson: That's right, yes. We had the grocery store there. Everybody would come in with a team of mules or horses on Saturdays, you know, and load up for the week. And everybody would come to that old, old store and buy. And then Jim Wilson, very well-known here in Lankershim man, why, we had what you'd call a dry good store. And he bought it from us, Jim Wilson did. And he went in for oh... all the things, there wasn't a thing he didn't have in his dry goods store. A lot of materials because in those days, the mothers have to sew and made the children's dresses or suits for the boys.
- Sandra: It was cheaper then.
- Carson: Oh sure. They had to. People were poor, out here in the valley in those days.
- Sandra: There wasn't much money.
- Carson: No, you see, you saw a lot of poverty, a lot of poor people. And so they trade in everything they had, and they had needles and threads and ribbons and everything to put a dress together, you know. They had the materials for the boys' patches, you know. Overhauls and things like that they did have. So it really was nice. That way, it helped the families. Cause they have pretty large families in those days. And uh, very little money to live on.
- Sandra: What made your family to decide to come out here?
- Carson: It was uhm, Mr. Andrews from back there in Iowa. He came out here and went to work here and had a job. And he's the one that wanted them all to come out to California. He said that "I like it" but remember there's nothing around. But you'll like it if you

get out here. So that made them all, everybody begins to think about coming out here. And that's what we did. And they all arrive, one by one.

Sandra: Were they sorry they came out here?

Carson: Hmm?

Sandra: Were they at all sorry they came out here?

Carson: No. No, they made a...they knew it was a wise move. Because people progress here. Like the Klumps and the Batemans, Charlie Bateman's family. There was five brothers and they all have their little farms all around, in Toluca, and all around there. The Klump family were in Toluca. They had their home there. The Klumps had, on Lankershim in North Hollywood, they have the stores. And we had stores and they were across the street from us. And they had that property which turned into very valuable property in Toluca Lake, you know. And the Batemans all live between Toluca Lake and North Hollywood, Lankershim. And so everybody, if we would have like a, Charlie Bateman had a big truck and in the summer time, why, he'd load all us kids from the church and off we go to Brookside Park.

Sandra: Oh boy!

Carson: Yeah, that was a big day. And the parents would follow in their cars with a big picnic lunch, you know, and back. It was kind of laughable but it was fun. And so we'd all have a big full day over there. And they played baseball and all the games in school.

Sandra: Oh yeah, I love picnics.

Carson: Oh I do! I always will like ~~the~~ ^{these}. Yeah. They're nice. You'll never grow tired of a picnic.

Sandra: Did you play games at the picnic?

Carson: Oh sure!

Sandra: What kind of games did you guys play?

Carson: Well they played, let me see what they played... first they would racing would be one of them. And see who would win. And they always have little prizes for the winner, you see. And then they played baseball. And little basketball over there. Then everyone would go in the water and swim for an hour or so and come out again. But they had all those kinds of little games, you know. What would you like to do now? And so they'd all get together and play. Uh huh! And so that was nice. Then Charlie Bateman bring us all up on the truck again. Ha ha ha...

Sandra: Did you ever go on a hay ride?

Carson: Oh yes, hay rides, sure! We had a lot of one for hay rides, yeah.

Dodson: That's something we hear about but...

Carson: I know.

Dodson: not many of the new generation had an experience like that.

Carson: That's right. But you know, we haven't had much...

Sandra: What do you do on a hay ride?

- Carson: Oh! Golly! You hitched up the old wagon and to your mule or horses, whatever you had, and we'd pick for hay out of the barn. They had it stack way up to the top. And we had to put so much hay on the floor of the wagon and off we would go. And we'd end up dancing somewhere and then get back on the wagon again. That was a good time! That was really a good time to go on a hay ride, you know?
- Sandra: Did you guys all sing on the way there?
- Carson: Oh yes! We sing. A lot of singing went on. And on a moonlight night in the summer, it was just beautiful! And everybody was singing and laughing and chatting with each other. It was fun!
- Dodson: Now you know what you miss, Sandy, by being born too late!
- Sandra: I know.
- Carson: Ha ha... that's right! That's right. You have your good points now and we had our good points then. You can't get it all, can we? No.
- Dodson: That's right.
- Carson: That's true, uh huh.
- Dodson: You've mentioned the red cars. We haven't found a single person that knew about those red cars that isn't sorry they're gone. Everybody regrets that.
- Carson: That's right. That is a big regret when they took those cars away from us. It wasn't right.

Dodson: I think that was one of the best inter urban systems in the country.

Carson: It was! And it was always on time, it never gave anybody any trouble, always helped people to go where they wanted to go, and out of the clear sky they were taken away! That was, they realize that's where they made a big mistake.

Dodson: Yes. And it would cost millions if not billions of dollars to try to replace that, if any attempt was going to be made.

Carson: That is right! Oh...billions. So uh, those little red cars were pretty nice.

Sandra: They were red cars?

Carson: Yeah, old red cars. Big old red cars.

Sandra: Maybe like a taxi? Or did they come and pick you up?

Dodson: Oh no.

Carson: No.

Dodson: More like a train.

Carson: More like a train. Yes. Yes, I'd say a train. Uh huh that's right, like a train.

Carson: But it wasn't a train?

Carson: No, it was a street car.

Sandra: Oh!

Dodson: It ran by electricity, you see. With an overhead trolley.

Carson: Yeah, uh huh. And there was always a motor man at the front.

Dodson: Hh hmm.

Carson: That's right. See?

Sandra: Uh hmmm. How much does it cost to ride on one of those?

Carson: Oh gee, it was very reasonable. When we were kids, I could go to Hollywood for five cents.

Sandra: Oh my gosh!

Carson: Try to go on one now, for five cents!

Sandra: Ha ha ha...

Carson: They'd put you right off. Ha ha ha... wouldn't they?

Dodson: I don't know what the cheapest fare is now. On the busses...

Carson: Oh the little fare here, on North Hollywood up to Saticoy, to San Fernando, is twenty cents one way.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: Forty cents round trip.

Dodson: I don't think I've ever ridden on one of the busses. You put those down, when you think about it.

Carson: It, it does too. Sometimes you have to take a ride on it.

Dodson: But I've ridden on the red cars frequently.

Carson: Oh, oh yes. They were nice.

Dodson: Do you remember when we also have the yellow cars? On the other side of the hill?

Carson: That's right! They have the yellow cars on the other side.

Dodson: Many people don't remember those at all. And they were surprised to hear there was another trolley system.

Carson: Oh yes, there was another, over on the other side. They were yellow. You're right, uh huh.

Dodson: When did that happen to go out of business? Do you happen to remember?

Carson: You mean the yellow cars?

Dodson: The yellow ones.

Carson: Gee whiz... uhm...

Dodson: I know they went out before the red cars.

Carson: That's right, they did, uh huh. Some years before. Uh huh, yes, they left, but... see, they were handy for people living downtown? They could get on that yellow car and be right down to Broadway, Bullock's, May Company, any place you want to go. In a few min-

utes. That was wonderful for people, to go downtown.

Sandra: Does people ride horses, very much?

Carson: Don't talk horses, I love them. Yes, I lived on horses!

Sandra: Uh huh!

Carson: Yeah... Yes, when I was a little girl growing up, I had my pony. They say, to Mr. Weddington, "Your daughter is going to be killed one of these days. Because when she comes into the red barn, she doesn't duck her head. She's gonna have her neck taken right off of it, you know." But I had no problem because I rode like an Indian. I just tuck my head flat to the horse, you see? And I'd go! Because the speeding come when we come in at five, they wanted their hay!

Dodson: They'd be in a hurry then.

Carson: Oh, a big hurry on getting home. Going out they didn't care so much, but coming home they were real fast and we had a lot of fun. Oh yes, I just, I spent a lot of time on horses and I like that. When I was four years old, I used to go out to the red barn and sit under Bob, the horse, and eat my sandwich. And he had swat flies, on top of his hair! But it didn't bother me! Ha ha ha...

Sandra: It took the flies right out of your sandwich! Ha ha...

Carson: That's right, he helped me out! Ha ha ha... Oh yeah, those were the good old days.

Dodson: Well, I came from burro country myself, in Colorado. Because on our mountain trails we used burros. Of course the burro now is about gone too, I guess.

Carson: We had one.

Dodson: Oh, is that right?

Carson: Oh yeah. It bucked me off. I never will forget the day out in the farm, where we have the troughs for the hogs' feed, you know? Take all your garbage and feed it out there to the hogs. And I got on, thought I'd enjoy riding him around and then all of a sudden, I guess he didn't like me on him, and he just went up and I went over and landed on the trough with all the garbage. I won't forget that ride. It took my mother a whole week to get it out of my hair.

Dodson: Usually they are very passive animals. You must have gotten a bad dispositioned one.

Carson: I must've been bad to him. I think if I remember right, my cousin was over there and I think he came up and swatted him once.

Dodson: The burro never forgave him.

Carson: Never forgave him! What?

Sandra: And that's what you did?

Carson: Yeah.

Sandra: And he remembers you?

Carson: Oh! They don't, I think they don't forget. I think they're smart.

Dodson: Some think they're smarter than horses, actually.

Carson: I think they are.

Dodson: That's one reason we could use them in Colorado, on a person not used to riding. As long as he let that burro alone and stay on the trail, he's all right.

Carson: No trouble at all, was it?

Dodson: No.

Carson: No. But once you start changing them, they don't like you. They go over there, they're creatures of habit, of going places or taking you places. Oh yes, that was real fun.

[Tape 1, side 1 ended]

Dodson: Now, we haven't asked you anything about your schooling. Do you remember your elementary school and who the principal was or some of your teachers?

Carson: I hardly?..... where the El Portal Theater was at home. And then next door was this great big high fence around, and that was the Lankershim school.

Dodson: What was the street called at that time?

Carson: Uh, Lankershim.

Dodson: It was the same name?

Carson: Same name and we called it the Lankershim school. And Mr. Killion was the principal, Killion. And he went straight through up to the eighth grade there. It was really a nice school. And there were some really lovely teachers. Mrs. Jacque, she just passed away I think in the last five years. She was a wonderful...everybody loved Mrs. Jacque. And she taught the third grade in the Lankershim school.

Sandra: How big was the school?

Carson: How big was it? Well, let me see, one big building, and they have the old, old building. We had two good sized buildings there, in those days that was pretty good.

Sandra: About how many kids go there?

Carson: Why, I would say around uhm, about three hundred, two hundred kids.

Dodson: You have about thirty in a class? Or something like that, would you say?

Carson: Well, not that many in class. No, they had about twenty-five in a class. Twenty to twenty-five in a class.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: Uh hmm.

Dodson: What was their behavior like in those days? Did they sass the teachers or were they cooperative or?

Carson: No, no, they had a lot of those going on in those days.

And they're great big fellas when they get up to seventh grade, or eighth grade. I felt so sorry for Mr. Killion, the principal. That poor man, they put eggs in his hat and he put it on. Oh, they did awful things and he used to have to strapped them, whipped them and they would not mind. The boys in those days were pretty rough when they got on that age. They, you know what I mean? They were gonna do what they wanted to do. And uhm, Mr. Killion was a very fine man as a principal. And they had different things going on at the school, we had the music, and little plays up on the platform, you know, the stage, and uh, and then there was...let me see... there was Mrs. Stone and Mrs. McGee and then... what other teachers were there that I remember? There was one other teacher, she was on Lankershim Boulevard. She was a very good teacher. And uhm, I don't know where she went, she taught there for some years. She and her husband had their home right on Lankershim Boulevard. And she was a very excellent teacher.

Sandra: Did they have any art school? I mean, did they teach you art as well as music and theater?

Carson: Yes, they had some art in those days. Not a whole lot but a certain amount of art, yes! It wasn't bad. They certainly, they certainly tried hard for the children in those days, you know. And they had good teachers in those days, they had good teachers.

Sandra: What was the playground?

Carson: The playground? Oh, we had a great big playground. Where we had a place where we play ball, baseball, and then where we had another big one, right over toward our house along there. With all the different games

they wanted to play, you know. And uh, we really had a nice set up for the kids, where we sat, you know, reading for our school for a little bit. Maples there, where they can just hang on and twirl around and uhm, what else did they have around?

Sandra: Was it all grass?

Carson: No, it was not all grass. On Lankershim in front of the school, it was all very nicely kept up and it is green grass and flowers and things but around the back, it wasn't. It was the dirt, you know, soil. And... it was really very nice, and we had a big house out in the center there for lunch time. So the boys and girls can eat their lunch there. It was on kind of poles and they had...

Sandra: It must have been beautiful!

Carson: Oh, it was nice, it really was for not having much in those days, you see. But it was a very, very nice school. Well, you see, they have nothing but that. And when you got through grammar school, you have to go over the hill, to go to high school, or whatever you wanted to do. Otherwise you have no way of going anywhere.

Dodson: How would you compare your school with the school that your son went to? Did you feel that he had better opportunities than you did?

Carson: Yes, I would say that he did have better opportunities than we did. The school that he went to, the funny part, he went over across the street into the Lankershim school when he was a little boy. And uh, he went there, and then from there, he went up to junior, Walter

Reed... he went to Walter Reed. And from Walter Reed he went to North Hollywood and graduated from North Hollywood. And then he went to Whittier College and when he got through Whittier, he went to Clairmont and got his masters. And uhm... he was a good student, a good student. But uh, they had more opportunities for the kids in those days than in my days. You can understand that, couldn't you? You see?

Dodson: You feel that they taught more subjects in elementary schools also and...?

Carson: Yes, yes, I think so, yes they did. They taught more in the elementary. Ours was more like arithmetic, reading, and writing and more in that mind. But uh, in his time and the others, why, I could see that they had much more advantage to go ahead on things than we had.

Sandra:?... before you?

Carson: No, my son.

Sandra: Oh, your son!

Carson: Yes, yah. This is after I ~~had~~ him and he grew up, then he started school. And we owned the house right across from the school, there on Bateman and McCormick. So all he had to do, we had a two-story home there, so all he'd had to do was go across the street to the school. And then when he got through ~~there~~, why, he went to Walter Reed, and then he could ride his bicycle. And then from there he went on to North Hollywood High School which he was in the... he was a good football player, he was on the team. So he did very well on football.

- Dodson: Now when you went to high school you had to go over the hill to Hollywood, did you say?
- Carson: You had to go over the hill to Hollywood if you wanted to go to high school. When I got through grammar school, my folks sent me, I'm not Catholic, but my folks sent me to St. Mary's Academy on Slosson and uhm, in Inglewood. I guess you'd know where that would be, wouldn't you?
- Dodson: Approximately, yes.
- Carson: And then, uh huh, well the old school is still there. The college... uh, I mean the... school. The school for girls there, the Catholic school. It's still there.
- Sandra: That was a long way to go to school!
- Carson: Well honey, I went and boarded there.
- Sandra: Oh you did?
- Carson: Yes. I boarded there for two years.
- Dodson: I was going to ask you whether you went back and forth every day! Ha ha ha...
- Carson: I would spend all the time on the road and never learn anything! Ha ha ha... But, the sisters were very good. They had this great big round dome, down there. And each one had a piano, and a little room where each teacher would take some little girl and she would take her lesson. Then after you took your lesson, you'd have to practice an hour. They had a good system, I'd say that about them. What they taught you, you learn.

Or otherwise something's wrong if you didn't learn something, you know?

Sandra: Were they strict?

Carson: Yeah, oh yes, they had to be strict, yes they did. We had to go early morning, you know, and have to wear the white veil.

Sandra: Do you feel that was a good thing?

Carson: Hm?

Sandra: Do you feel that you got a lot out of that?

Carson: Yes I think I did. The sisters were very nice, lovely sisters. And I think it's a... that they did something good going there, I really do. It didn't hurt me at all because I was in this one horse, little horse town, and they thought that uh, a change like that would do something for me. See the difference how other people... the schools are, and what goes on here.

Sandra: Your parents wanted you to have that opportunity.

Carson: That's right. And then after the two years then I came home, and I went to uhm, the Hollywood for Girls finishing school there, right on La Brea and Hollywood. You go down Hollywood Boulevard until you get to La Brea and make a right turn, it's just up the road a ways, on the left hand side of the school, in those days.

Dodson: I see. Well, did you feel that the sisters were stricter than your public school teachers back here?

- Carson: Oh yes, oh yes! They say something to you that's all they ever had to say. That's it. You did it, or, you know? But, but... it was all right. Of course at first I was very blue. It took me about a month or two months to get into, to understand, because I don't live in the valley where we had more of the open spaces, you know what I mean, and then getting into a school like that. I didn't quite understand it at first. You need a little time to get adjusted, but Sister Loretta and and...the other several sisters I got acquainted with and they were very nice to me. And I think that helped me. I think it did.
- Dodson: Now what did you study in high school? Or when you were there? What subjects would you be studying?
- Carson: Well, we studied, we had uhm, as I told you reading, arithmetic, and writing. And history, and geography, we had a lot of geography in those days. I don't know how they give that. Do they give that in schools today as much as they did? They do? Oh!
- Dodson: I was wondering since you were in a Catholic school if you studied Latin? Which is always a favorite of mine.
- Carson: Yes, that was. Well, you see, the first two years, they have their Latin mostly in their junior and senior years in the Catholic school.
- Dodson: Oh, I see.
- Carson: You had to. We were working up forward, but you see I took it for two years and then I left it.
- Dodson: Oh! So you didn't get that.

Carson: I didn't get that yet. And you enjoyed it?

Dodson: Yes, I loved it!

Carson: Oh! Isn't that wonderful??.... my term? Yes, you must have been to do all that. We were leading up to it and I knew that it was going to be hard, you know, but... I think it was wonderful that you got that. And I think anyone who can do it, it's a big help.

Dodson: Yes, I value it greatly.

Carson: Oh yes! Absolutely! Very much so. But uh, in those days, things were different than they are today, things are different.

Sandra: Could I ask you a personal question?

Carson: Uh huh.

Sandra: How old were you when you started, when you were on your first date?

Carson: Oh when I went on my first date I was around uhm, seventeen. Sixteen or seventeen, around there.

Dodson: Would that differ very much, Sandy, from what you know would be the right age for a date today?

Sandra: Well, I was thirteen.

Carson: How old were you?

Sandra: Thirteen.

Carson: Thirteen.

Sandra: We went forward.

Carson: Yeah, well you see that would have been just about thirteen to seventeen. About four years difference.

Sandra: Where did you guys go on your first date?

Carson: Well gee, we, on the first date we went roller skating. And that was fun, I enjoyed that. 'Cause I have always liked outdoor sports. Anything to do with sports I would always enjoy.

Sandra: Was there a roller skating rink here in the valley? That you guys could go to?

Carson: Oh yes. You had to ...?... first and then you have to know how to roller skate.

Sandra: A ha...

Carson: Uh huh, we did that. So many of the boys and girls all went there to skate, you see. And the folks felt good about it because they knew where we were, you see?

Sandra: Uh huh.

Carson: As the difference in the world of today, I think, with the boys and with the girls of today, I think the parents in my time they had a better understanding with one another. I think... Now today, a boy or a girl really young today growing up, they want to run their own lives. They don't want to be told what to do or what not to do or what's best for you. When we would

always listen, you see? And I think there's a big change in that, for the young ones of today. And I think that uh, a lot of these girls being so young, they have too much freedom and the boys the same, so young. They start at twelve now, eleven, running around. And you know, there's nothing wrong with it but I don't think anyone is at that age is mature enough to know what to do or how far to go, where they are going, you see? And I think that's why we have a lot of problem in our country today.

Dodson: Well, were you under strict rules on where you could go and when you had to be home?

Carson: Oh yes.

Dodson: And stuff like that?

Carson: Oh yes. Oh yes. When my father said eleven o'clock, it was going to be eleven o'clock. I was so afraid that I was looking at the clock all the time. My nerves, when I came home at eleven o'clock that would be too bad.

Sandra: I think though with the new generation, the children who stayed out late, who dispute with their parents, you know, such as myself, that generation there, they will change with their kids. And they'd be more stricter.

Carson: I think so.

Sandra: Yeah, because they will know. See my mom was raised in you know, on a farm, dirt floor, and...

Carson: See?

Sandra: ... and she they would ...?... and she was a virgin when she got married, you see. And that's very rare.

Carson: Oh yes.

Sandra: But people still do that. And but see, I was totally opposite with her. But the next generation...

Carson: It will swing back.

Sandra: ...I'm more strict with my kids, you know, in that respect.

Carson: Now that, I think you're right there. It will swing.

Sandra: Yeah. Cause I know what's happening out there.

Carson: Well sure. Well, you see it and you know what's going on...

Sandra: My mom didn't.

Carson: No... And that is where I feel sorry for the uh, young ones. Because they don't know, and if only somebody could only reason with them or take... I'll tell you what I think of the trouble today. People don't have time enough with their children.

Dodson: That could be there are more distractions, today.

Carson: That's what it is. So much you have to meet in a day. You get home from business or work and you're tired. And you have to put a dinner on, to get food for them. And you haven't got that little time or patience where in our day, the parents have more time

to ask "Well, what did you do today?" "Was everything all right today?" Well, you know?

Dodson: Uh huh.

Carson: And you get kind of a chummy conversation between you, understanding. And I think that is really one of the biggest trouble. The children are good, it's the way we're living.

Sandra: Do you feel that your parents were... did you feel close to your parents?

Carson: Yes, I think so.

Sandra: And still they were like a friend?

Carson: Yes, that's right. My mother and I were very close. We were like sisters.

Sandra: Uh huhm.

Carson: You see?

Sandra: And what you attribute that to being...

Carson: Yes.

Sandra: ...spending a lot of time with you?

Carson: That's right. And they didn't make me feel like or my brother, well they didn't make us feel like "Well this is it" or anything, they would talk with us and listen. Like if you're going here, you want to do that. But my father was very strict on coming home at night. He

didn't believe in a girl being out too late when she's young and not getting home, you see? But otherwise, I think so. And I think that's why my mother and I had a close relationship, because she would talk with me like I would talk with you. There wasn't that difference between us. And I think that helps a lot too, when growing up. If somebody can kind of talk to you, you don't feel like you're..."Well I can't say anything, I have to keep it quiet"... you know, and that's where a lot of little things start with people, because they can't say anything.

Sandra: Absolutely.

Carson: Don't you think I'm right?

Sandra: Yes, you're right.

Carson: Yeah, that's true.

Dodson: Now we hear a lot about alcoholism, and narcotics, and so forth at the present time. Was that any kind of a problem when you were small?

Carson: Do we did not.

Dodson: During school?

Carson: We didn't even know anything, that there was such a thing. Any of those things... the only thing they had was alcohol, which always will be and has always been but that was what the older people would drink. But the young ones, they weren't heavy on the bottle in those days, no.

Dodson: There wasn't much of that in high school then?

Carson: Oh no, no, no. Uh uh. I can remember when a guy going to high school with the boys. They had an awful lot of fun, but I never saw them come home or have a bottle, or talking about drinking and all these going on. It's only been... how many years have this been going on?

Dodson: Not very many as far as narcotics is concerned, I'm sure.

Carson: Not very many, no. Uh... I'm just trying to think of how long this has been going on... it's been going around... twenty years?

Sandra: Since the sixties, wasn't it?

Carson: Hmm? Sixties?

Dodson: That may be so.

Carson: Huh?

Dodson: I know when I was in high school I never knew a single student who could have used narcotics. We never heard of such a thing.

Carson: That's it! We didn't know. I never heard it mentioned in our home. See? But now, why... you have to watch your boys, sons, and daughters.

Sandra: You have to warn them about it.

Carson: Oh, oh, absolutely. I'm a great believer in that. I

think you should, because...

Sandra: Yeah.

Carson: ...they go away and... you could meet a person in a front room but you don't know that boy or girl who comes to meet your boy, or your daughter. And "Oh he's nice" or "Oh she's nice" that's as much as you know how nice. But when they get out, with the bunch, you don't know what's going on.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: "Oh, just take a pill. It won't hurt you. It'll make you feel good." Isn't that right? But you know it'll get a hold on you. You'd have to have another one.

Dodson: Do you have any grandchildren in school at the present time?

Carson: Yes I have. The little boy over there, now, he's over here at the Lutheran school, Laurel Hall.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: That's a very good school.

Dodson: I was going to ask you to compare his... what he's taking in his schooling, with yours...

Carson: Yes, I'm watching that very closely. They're very strict in that school. Very strict with them. He has homework he has to bring home every night. And uhm... if you don't get that homework you have to make it up. You have to, it has to be turned in to

your teacher, you see? And they have nice playgrounds for them and... they take them uhm, you have to sign up with the school, that you will let your boy or your girl go on... they have big busses to, they take the boys and girls to uhm, for a day. And they take them swimming, or all over, or they take them to the zoo and talked to them about all the different animals and things like that, which is very good.

Sandra: When did the zoo come over here?

Carson: The zoo?

Sandra: Yeah.

Carson: It's over the hill in Hollywood, over in Los Angeles.

Sandra: The one in Griffith Park?

Carson: Yeah.

Sandra: When did you... when did they start the zoo here?

Carson: Oh gee, that's been going many many years. Oh, a long time.

Sandra: Did you go to it when it first opened?

Carson: When I was younger, we used to...

Sandra: I was wondering, do you remember any of the animals, or how many they had there?

Carson: They don't have the animals that we have now, but they did have quite a few animals there.

Sandra: Uh huh.

Carson: But nothing like what they have now.

Sandra: Uh huh.

Carson: And that's a good place, wonderful for children. The zoo is very good for children, all those things are good. It's a wholesome thing. And it's teaching 'em things, it's teaching them something too. Did your children liked that too?

Sandra: Yeah, I just took them to the zoo.

Carson: Oh, did you?

Sandra: A couple of weeks ago! Ha ha ha...

Carson: See? I know they'd like it.

Sandra: It was good for them.

Carson: Oh you bet it was! A good outing!

Sandra: Uh humm.

Carson: A very healthy outing for them.

Dodson: Did your elementary school organized field trips of that kind? Like a trip to a zoo, or to some other place?

Carson: In my time, when I was going to school?

Dodson: Yes.

- Carson: Uhm, no, we didn't have too much of that, no. Uh uh, no we didn't. That would've been nice if we had.
- Dodson: So that would've been a difference, between teaching then and now?
- Carson: That's right! Yeah, there is that difference.
- Sandra: How old were you when you got married?
- Carson: Well, I'll tell you. I uh, married this fella and ~~they~~ annulled it, our folks did. So that was out. So then I didn't settle down to get married, until later in life. And, so, it was all for the best the way it went, you see? But I was around, the home, I stayed around the home for a long time. And I helped there in the house. And then I go up... we had the Lankershim Investment Company, and I go up there and do a little work up there, at the building, at the office. And then I married later, uh huh. Sometimes I think marrying a little older, you're better off than you are when you're so young. You know? I think you know more where, what you're going to do, and uhm, when you're really young you know you're in love with love. Ha ha ha... I think I'm right! In love with love! Yeah, that's true. So, well, you have to go through these different experiences, makes us good people firm people. Ha ha ha... or if it doesn't, then it's just too bad for us, isn't it? Ha ha ha...
- Dodson: Incidentally, in those days did unmarried people lived together, as they very commonly do today?
- Carson: No. You never heard of it.
- Dodson: That would be my impression. That practically didn't

exist, right?

Carson: It didn't exist, that's right. If you ever heard of a couple living together, it was very rare in those days. "Oh there's Mr. and Mrs. ...?... Did you notice something?", they said to my mother. "No, what?" "They're not married, they live together!"

Dodson: Ha ha ha...

Carson: Why, goodness! That shook Lankershim like that! No.

Sandra: It was immoral?

Carson: Oh yes!

Sandra: They thought it was immoral?

Carson: Yeah, they didn't believe in that, uh uh. Do you really think it's the best for everybody? Or not?

Dodson: It's hard to say. Now, among my students I know that a very large number are doing it.

Carson: Oh, I know they do. This boy, with his young fellow next door, he and his girlfriend, she comes and goes, you know. And he's a very fine boy.

Dodson: Well you see, that's the problem.

Carson: Yeah.

Dodson: These are awfully nice kids, really, and you would like them when you meet them.

Carson: That's right!

Dodson: So you can't...

Carson: No you can't.

Dodson: ...suddenly condemn them!

Carson: That's what I say, I say the same thing. One thing I do think, though, they're more uhm, what is it? ...more out with it.

Dodson: Yes, that's true.

Carson: And that... that's a good sign. They're out with it, you know, you know what they're doing. And they think nothing of it. They laugh and talk with you. Richard comes over and talks with me, lovely girl.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: She lives up on the hill in Laurel Canyon with her father and mother. She'll come about every night, to stay over. Now her father, I think this is good, her father has in the last six months, is taking her in to work for him in his office. Now that's good, I'm glad to hear that. That might help her a little bit, you see? And the boy, Vincent, is a fine boy. His mother lives on just a block from here. And they have a nice relationship, he has with with his mother. And she's put a down payment on this house next door, for him to have. And he's working at it, anyhow, I gave him a lot of credit. He mows his lawn, and he plants his flowers, and took off the garage door and he's trying to figure out how he's going to put it back on again, ha ha ha... you know? So... you know? So of course, I don't... I don't... condemn him. The only thing is, it depends how you look at it, or how you go about it.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: I think that has a lot to do with it, you know, hmm?
There's a certain class that are good people that live together. And then there's a rowdy-dowdy bunch that are just no good anyway. Isn't that true?

Dodson: Yes, that certainly is.

Carson: And you can't change them, you can't change spots on a leopard.

Dodson: Sandy, do you think of something else from this first page that uh, you're interested in asking about?

Sandra: Well, I really haven't got one yet, but I'll make one up.

Dodson: Well that's o.k.

Carson: Uh huh.

Sandra: Did you go to ... what was the first job that you ever had, actually going out and going to work?

Carson: I, well I didn't go out to any actual job. I went up to our company.

Sandra: Oh yeah.

Carson: I worked with them. But I never went out, into the world, for another job.

Sandra: Have you ever moved out of the valley?

Carson: I moved to Glendale.

Sandra: Uh hmm.

Carson: Moved over there, and then came back and lived over here.

Sandra: But you've lived in the valley all your life?

Carson: Oh yes, all my life, yes. Uh huh, no I didn't...

Dodson: You were born here in the valley, were you?

Carson: I was born right where the El Portal Theater stands. And this is Cecil, Mrs. Cecil Wilcox... uhm, when I was born, they couldn't get the doctor from over Hollywood, over the hill, and she came running down with a bonnet on her head and she tied my little button on my tummy and she took care until the doctor could arrive.

Sandra: Oohh!

Carson: Uh huh, that was pretty nice. She's pretty clever, they say, in helping mothers, you know? And uh, but uhm...

Sandra: How many children did you have?

Carson: I lost one. I had two. A boy and a girl. And uhm, so, I think it's very interesting, I have enjoyed, I enjoy all of that. And uh, we would go over to Whittier when he was in college, and we bought ourselves a a... oh what are those things now?...They're driving these motor cars now, aren't they? Where people go on week-ends now, what are they?

Dodson: A trailer?

Carson: Well we had a trailer.

Dodson: That's it.

Carson: And we found these lovely people, these lovely people who had a place. And we took our trailer and we left it in Whittier. Then we would go over for the week-ends for the football games and all what was going on at college. So we had a lot of fun that way. So we didn't miss anything.

Sandra: Did you ever go camping?

Carson: Oh yeah.

Sandra: Did you like to go?

Carson: Yes, I liked camping.

Sandra: Do you still like to go today?

Carson: Would I like to?

Sandra: Yeah.

Carson: Oh sure! I like anything in the outdoors. Sure, I think it's good. Good wholesome fun and it's good for you. You bet. And it would be nice for your children growing up, too. All those things are a big help to them.

Dodson: Do you remember the Great Depression of 1929? And how it hit the valley? And were your family affected by that?

Carson: Yes, my father turned grey overnight.

Dodson: Is that right?

Carson: His hair got real grey. He was dark-haired and white came in very suddenly. His hair never was so good after that.

Dodson: Is that right?

Carson: It was too much of a shock for him, I think. It destroyed him to death because he thought he was going to lose everything he worked so hard for so long. And so many of the business men felt the same way. That was a depression!

Dodson: Yes, it's very hard for a person now that didn't go through that, to realize what it did to the people at that time.

Carson: You bet it did! It was real rough! Nobody had a thing.

Sandra: ...?...

Carson: Oh no, honey!

Dodson: And there was no sort of social security to help them along afterwards.

Carson: Oh, nothing. If you didn't have a dollar, you just didn't have a dollar. And you go hungry.

Sandra: What did you guys eat during the Depression?

Carson: Oh, very, very plain foods. Macaroni, cheese, potatoes, and things more like that. Yeah, that was a bad Depres-

sion. I'll never forget it! It left a memory on me, uh huh, everybody. Now, nowadays, the people, I feel so sorry for people with this depression we're going through. But they don't really realize that they have a lot to be grateful for, that they do have some help.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: But there was no help in those days! If they were living in those days, than what it is today, that would really be something! Well, I'll put it this way, the way the world is today, the way the young ones the youngs ones of today could not endure what the youngs ones in my days did. See? They couldn't go through it. They wouldn't put up with it. The young generation would not take it today. You'd come forth. We have to have some money, we've got to have this, we've got to have help. And this, see, that shows what the change has been in the world. In those days people didn't know, they didn't have nobody to ask for it at all, a quarter, or any kind of potatoes, or rice, or anything.

Dodson: My mother had money in several different savings and loans, and lost in every one of them.

Carson: Did she really?

Dodson: Uh huhm. Of course now those accounts are insured, that would be another difference.

Carson: That's another big difference. You know, that is! Now everybody is insured for up to a hundred thousand, isn't it?

Dodson: Yes, uh hmm.

Carson: You know, that was sad how people were wiped out from their money. Very, very sad... You know, when a person put a lifetime in like your mother, saved hundreds and thousands, to have a few dollars for later, and then to have it wiped out from under you. It's bad!

Dodson: At that time, did your family have the store?

Carson: Yes, we have the store.

Dodson: Did you have accounts that were owing you, because the people couldn't pay?

Carson: Oh sure, never did get 'em. A lot of them we never got paid. Tom Brown down at the other corner, where the?.... is, you know where that is, don't you? Right here on Magnolia and Bateman.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: And...he heavens, why he...

[Tape 1 side 2 ends]

Dodson: ...wasn't it?

Carson: Yes, that's right.

Dodson: That's where we stopped. So maybe you can...

Carson: Yes, let me finish telling about Tom Brown.

Dodson: Yes, maybe you should repeat that. Yes, tell us about...

Carson: Yes, he has a grocery store at the corner of, uh, where

...?...uhm, on the corner of Magnolia and Bateman.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: And uhm, everybody knows Tom Brown. You mention Tom Brown to the old timers, "Oh I know him!" Everybody knew him, he was well known. And so, that depression came along, and it was a rough one.

Dodson: Well, was his store ruined by the Depression? Did he go bankrupt?

Carson: No he didn't! I tell you he didn't, he just stuck right with it. And then he would, on a habit, he had a hobby on the side, he would go down to the junk places. And he was smart enough to know what to pick up and what not to pick up. Well, he made himself a lot of money!

Dodson: Right!

Carson: Oh, he was a smart man. Everybody laughed, oh we all laugh about it, but he was nothing to laugh at. He knew what he was doing, you know? I guess it was a gift. The Depression was here and he knew he had to get more money to keep his store, so it wouldn't close on him. So he went around to all the junk places, and he'd pick this up, then turned around and pick another thing up. And everything he picked out made money for him.

Dodson: Some people are good at that sort of thing.

Carson: Oh he was a... everybody... we all knew that he was really good at that business!

Dodson: Now, a disaster that hit the valley was a flood! Do you remember the floods?

Carson: Oh, terrible floods! I remember when we were growing up as children and up here, on the corner of Chandler, right by the high school there, North Hollywood High School, Chandler... where the bridge is, you cross the bridge on Chandler... do you know where that is? Right up here by the high school, North Hollywood High School?

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: My father and all the businessmen, they would leave. And they would load the old trucks with cement sacks, one after the other, stacking them. And the storm, the rain, everything was coming down. And he'd say good bye and we wouldn't see him for two or three days. I can still see my brother sitting in the window crying. And they had a terrible time. Because, you see, the flood was coming there and it went right... sweeping right across North Hollywood, Lankershim, over to the Burbank line. That great big ground all through there was low. And that was wash, in those days that was the wash. And it was something. And they would fight, those men would fight to save the town and to save people's property from going. It was a terrible thing. The flood was so bad that Joe Payne, an old old timer here, he had five sons... five fine little boys growing up, and they awakened and realized the storm was very bad. And that the water was coming. So they got them all in a car and they started off in their car. And she said to her husband, "Oh I forgot that important paper! We must circle around and I'll run in and I'll grab it." And she got out of the car and he had the motor running for her to

get it and run back to the car. All of a sudden, he looked back and he couldn't believe that the water was coming. He had to drive off and leave her. They found her body down in the end of Glendale, in the wash. And you know, he felt so bad, he made a wonderful father. He raised those five boys, and they all turned out fine boys. He said that was his duty to her. He felt like he was responsible, you know? But she insisted that she had to get that paper. Just by turning around, it all happened, you see?

Dodson: Was there much loss of life in those floods?

Carson: Uh...

Dodson: That was the thirty-seventh flood, you mentioned?

Carson: That's right, that was the thirty-seventh. Well the homes right here on West Park Drive, you know where West Park Drive is from here? Uh... lovely homes all through there... well, you should've seen, when that came it just took ...?... of those nice homes and put them all down to the wash. Right off of their... standing on their grounds into the wash. Sideways, downways, it was terrible. And at night, it was so bad the storm was, that over here where the high school is, why... just down a little further to the left, why... the trees there, people climbed the trees and hung on for their lives all night long. So they wouldn't drown.

Sandra: Oh my goodness!

Carson: Oh, that was terrible! That was bad! Very sad, people hanging on for their lives.

Dodson: It's very hard for a person living in the valley now

to realize the situation that existed then.

Carson: Oh... we've been through some very hard hardships, in our time, uh huh.

Sandra: After the flood, did the people who lost their homes, were they helped by their neighbors?

Carson: Everybody was very nice and helping, but they didn't have any place to go out and get money. You see, that's what was hard. There was no place to get money, you see.

Sandra: Did the neighbors take them in?

Carson: Oh, oh very nice that way, oh yes. They put them up for two or three or a week at a time, and let them stay at their place. Make pots of coffee and food for the children, oh yes. But uhm, it was uh, we've had some pretty hardships, you see, in the old days. Because of the flooding of the water was so bad. I know it was so bad that over here on Tujunga right here, my brother lived on Bateman. And uhm, the storm was so bad and my father was coming down with Doctor Wilson, and they couldn't cross over because the bridge went out right in front of them, and flooded. So they put on their brakes and stopped. And they couldn't do a thing. And they couldn't hear from the kids oh... all that night and to the next day. And these row boats came in from Hollywood and got them out of their houses and took them down to Ventura, to get them over, and then they all went to Hollywood to stay at the different hotels, places to sleep. And you see davenport, you see chairs, everything flying out of the doors, you know. From the water,

uh huh, yeah. There's been bad times. We're very fortunate today, that our dams are very secure now. Which we never had that. We can never count if it was going to be safe or if it wasn't going to be safe. You could understand that, couldn't you?

Dodson: None of those dams existed in 1937, did they? That's all been built since then?

Carson: That's all been built since then, since '37, yup, they have done that.

Dodson: Yes, that's why people today can't envision those floods.

Carson: They can't, they can't. They couldn't believe it if they could see what went on. It would frighten you, they do frighten you.

Dodson: Now since you have lived in the valley, the Sylmar earthquake is the only major one, isn't it?

Carson: That's the only real major one. That was a very bad earthquake. Very bad...

Dodson: Did you feel it here very much? Did it do any damage in this area?

Carson; Uh, well it uh... that was six o'clock in the morning, wasn't it?

Dodson: Yes it was.

Carson: And uhm, I was upstairs and I felt like somebody took my bed and would push me from there...and I have this

sliding doors on the bedroom, and I felt as if I was going and all of a sudden I get there, and all of a sudden I'm back again. And I didn't know what was wrong at first. See I couldn't get my... couldn't figure out what had happened. I was just going to get up to get ready, to get my clothes and get dressed.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: And uhm, so as soon as it quieted down, my door, people were banging on my doors. And the neighbors were so nice because my husband had just past away, you see, just before that. And uhm, so uhm, I came down and they said, "Oh, we didn't know whether you were alive or what happened. We were worried about you because we didn't see you or anything." And I said, I'm still here but I said I was under shock. It took me a little time to get myself together again. But, it made quite a lot of cracks in the house. And in the basement, it did some damage in the basement. The uhm... the old tubs that we had down there, you know, and they were loosened from the walls. I came out and there were these big cracks all downstairs on the walls. And that was a very, very severe earthquake we had, ~~that~~ one. And the other earthquake was earlier than that. It was the one that hit Long Beach, that was...

Dodson: In '33.

Carson: '33, 1933, ~~that~~ was a bad earthquake.

Dodson: That did damage here in the valley, too, didn't it?

Carson: Oh you bet it did! It did damage everywhere. And I'll tell you another place that's always had bad damage, was Santa Barbara.

- Dodson: Yes. Now, was that one felt here in the valley very much? Santa Barbara earthquake?
- Carson: Uh, not too bad. But we knew, we got the jolt. But nothing like what they had up there.
- Dodson: You know, one of the most amazing things to me, is that I've talked to some people who were here in 1906, at the San Francisco earthquake. And they told me that they felt a jolt here in the valley, at that time. They said it didn't do any damage, but they did feel the jolt. Have you heard your father or grandfather...
- Carson: The only thing worth talking about it, my mother's brother and his wife, and they had this little baby, and they had gone to San Francisco, and this earthquake came. It was so terrible. And they ran to the crib and got the baby, and ran out to the street, in San Francisco. And the crime that started there was terrible. They had... they were cutting women's fingers off for their diamonds.
- Sandra: Oh my god!
- Dodson: Yes, that's right.
- Carson: Oh! My mother's brother said that you never saw such a sight, in your life! Just... just vicious! Taking anything they can get from you, you know. And the whole place was in flames, it was a terrible, terrible earthquake.
- Dodson: Yes, I guess that's about the worse we've had.
- Carson: That's the worse one! Now they're trying to tell us, did you hear that the other night? That we're going

to get it in '84? No, '87, they said.

Dodson: Well, I think geologists think this area is overdue for a major quake.

Carson: Yes.

Dodson: But most of them don't try to predict when it will come.

Carson: No!

Dodson: They just think it's overdue.

Carson: I know. I certainly... that's one thing all of us...

Sandra: They have predicted them before, and it's never happened.

Carson: That's right. That's right.

Sandra: They don't know.

Carson: Nobody knows, nobody knows. And the big trouble with earthquakes is the uncertainty.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: Nobody knows when it'll hit. You don't know exactly what to do.

Dodson: No, and with most of them, by the time you figure out what's happening the quake has stopped.

Carson: That... that's what I mean. And then you could, like at San Francisco, you see them... my aunt said that the

streets widened and split, people were falling down in it. And then gradually it was closing in on them. That's what happened in San Francisco... in 1906.

Dodson: That would be an expecially terrible situation.

Carson: Oh, you know it, what they went through. Must have been terrible. And they were just young, very young, and a baby... in getting out of there. They said that never, never forget that. The shock of all this... too much on them, you know? Twenty-one year old person, it's a big shock to them. Uh humm.

Dodson: Now we know that the Long Beach caused the condemnation of the Van Nuys High School and Van Nuys Elementary School. Did it have that effect on some buildings here in North Hollywood?

Carson: Some of the buildings were cracked. They got some cracks, we had some buildings that cracked. Uh humm.

Dodson: Was it necessary to tear some down? That they...

Carson: No, we didn't have to do that.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: No, we didn't. We were lucky... fortunate that we didn't have to tear the buildings down, you see. Now you know they have this uhm, what is it? ...CRE you know, this new development that's going on here, in North Hollywood here, you know? And it's quite a situation, we're tied up in lawsuits right now. And they uhm, we owned where the Rexall Drug store and the theater. And they're trying to hold out and those are all our fixtures out there, in the theater and

everything. And just before this all started, we spent thirteen thousand dollars to have it reenforced for these chairs upstairs, they're for people in case of an earthquake. Well you see, this comes along and wants the ground so that we just lost thirteen thousand dollars like it was nothing. You see, we could never get it back.

Dodson: Well, if they take over the land they will reimburse you for that cost, will they not?

Carson: Well, that's what we don't know. That's what we'd like to know. So anyway, we're under this lost and we have excellent lawyers with it now. And they said that the last part of August, we will know something about it then. So... we're just waiting to see what comes up, you see.

Dodson: Does the city want to take a whole area right there in ...?

Carson: Yeah, they're taking the whole block in there.

Dodson: I see.

Carson: You see? It would take in the theater and the drug store, and clear back on the next street back, which is Klump. And to take all the houses and buildings in there, and then down further to uhm, what is that... uhm, I'm trying to think of the name... they're going to move out... it's a drug store. What is that one that is well known? It's uh... they're all over... they have them all over...

Dodson: Thrifty is it?

Carson: No, it isn't Thrifty. No uh uh. And they're going to

be going, so it'll go past their place. So, it will take about a block... when it goes... it will tear down. They'll tear it all down, everything will be torn down. You see?

Dodson: Is the plan to build a galleria there? Or a mall, or something like that?

Carson: Well, they want to build a four or five story building there.

Dodson: Oh, is that right?

Carson: That's what they're talking about. Yes, so... you can't do anything you just have to see how it's all going to turn out. That's all you can do, you know? But, what I said to my brother, what I can't understand, is that my father worked so hard and got that property. And paid his taxes 'til his death. And my brother and I have been paying taxes on that property, keeping everything up, painted up... we had a reputation that we kept our property very well... and we kept everything going. And we have in our vault in the office, we have every paper and all our taxes so they can't get away from us... I mean they can't put anything over us because we have all our data, which we have to have, you see?

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: So then, that will just remain to see, how it will all happen and how it will turn out. But for thirty to forty years you've paid and paid and paid, and then all this comes up and they can wipe you out, you see?

Dodson: Well of course, it won't let them do that though, I

don't think.

Carson: I don't see any court, how they can do it, because we have all our papers for our taxes that we paid for years and years. And all the upkeeping, painting, just put a new roof on two years ago, and you don't get them for peanuts anymore. All those things take a lot of money.

Dodson: Oh yes!

Carson: You know.

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: So well, my brother said we'd just have to uh, stand by and see how this all turns out. But the lawyers that we have are very well-known in this kind of work. You see? That's what you have to have... somebody who knows what they're doing. It takes money to do it, I'll tell you, everytime they turn around they want more money, more money, more money, lawyers aren't cheap anymore.

Dodson: No, I'm not sure they ever have been, really, unless you go back to Abe Lincoln's days. Ha ha ha...

Carson: I think you're so right! It scares them today, I'll tell ya. No, you get mixed up with them, anything may happen.

Dodson: Do you remember World War I and it coming to the valley? Or were you too small then to remember?

Carson: Well I'll tell you. I was a little girl then, when it came. Because I can remember very plainly, Wright

was his name, the boy went in the service. And three or four of his buddies were in the service. And I remember us young ones went up there, to the little dance hall... they have this dance hall in Lankershim then... and every Saturdays they have dances for the grown ups to go to, see? And they would, the wives would make sandwiches and fix food, and dance. And as I remember, us kids went up with our folks that night. And I remember Wright, this young Ralph Wright, walking in. And he'd just got home from service. Yes, uh hmm. He was so glad to get home.

Dodson: So you remember the end of the war, the Armistice, and how it affected the valley? A sort of celebration there was, or anything of that kind?

Carson: Well, they yes, the grown ups, they had a big time. Oh yes, very happy over it. Yes... it's too bad it couldn't have been the end of it all. All these wars that have gone on since, it's a sad situation!

Dodson: Oh yes.

Carson: On and on and on... and we loose so many young men, and girls. And parents have to suffer, everybody have to suffer. It hit so many people when these things happen, you know? But they did have a big celebration. I remember my mother went out and... they get the bonds, you know sell bonds?

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Carson: She did that, uh hmm. All the women in Lankershim, they put on little white top blouse and a mini skirt, and they put a little hat on their heads and off they'd go! Ha ha... and they brought in the money, though.

- Dodson: I think there was a great surge of patriotism in that particular war. Everybody thought it was the right thing to do...
- Carson: That's right! Everybody was in with them, and worked together.
- Dodson: Yes.
- Carson: Yeah, which was beautiful that they did, you see. Nowadays these things come up, one's fighting this way and one's fighting that way. We can't win a war with everybody fighting ten different ways all the time, isn't that true? Uh hmm, so... it's a problem. Would you like to take this with you?
- Dodson: I believe we have a copy of that.
- Carson: Oh, have you got it already, maybe, huh? Yeah, and where did I put that Oh yeah, this is... I wanted you to read this.... in 1936, my father... post office. It was about the post office. And he mailed it to me. I was one of the first to get a letter from the post office.
- Dodson: This is interesting, with Toluca on one side and North Hollywood on the other.
- Carson: Yeah, that's right, it's an old, old timer.
- Dodson: ...October 17th...
- Carson: Uh huh.
- Dodson: First cancellation mark use of 1893 over on this side.

Carson: That's right.

Dodson: This is 1936... This is a letter then, that he was writing so that you would get one of the first to receive a letter mailed from one of the new North Hollywood post office?

Carson: That is correct, yes. That is correct.

Dodson: Which was dedicated on Saturday, October 17th, 1936.

Carson: Correct.

Dodson: Uhm... this was sent by your father...

Carson: By my father, yes.

Dodson: And it says, "I wish to remind you that your grandfather, W. C. Weddington, pioneer and soldier, was the first post master of this district. The first post office was established in 1893 and at that time was called Toluca. It was located in the Weddington ranch house." So the first post office was in your ranch house!

Carson: That's right, it was in the ranch house.

Dodson: I see. Which is at the present site of the El Portal Theater...

Carson: That's right.

Dodson: ...building, at the Southwest corner of Lankershim Boulevard and Weddington Street. And which, by the way, was the place where you were born.

Carson: That's correct, uh hmm.

Dodson: "The post office was afterward moved to the Weddington Brothers General Merchandise Store at the southwest corner of Lankershim and Chandler. The name of the post office was changed to Lankershim in 1905. Your grandfather served as postmaster until April 1st, 1915. The new post office stands on ground that was once part of the Weddington Ranch. This particular property was sold by your grandfather to the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1893 at \$200 per acre. And repurchased by your uncle Fred and myself in 1931 at the rate of \$25,000 per acre." My, real estate value has certainly gone up in that time!

Carson: They've certainly did in that time. Yes, that proved it, didn't it? Uh huh.

Dodson: Yes. "And donated to the U.S. government for the present post office site."

Carson: Yes.

Dodson: "Your grandfather will be very pleased to know that you have received one of the first letters mailed and I hope you'll keep it among your treasured possessions." That's good because we've recorded this information, you see.

Carson: That's it, you see? There you are. Very good, very good, uh hmm.

Dodson: Well, is that where the present post office is? In North Hollywood?

Carson: Yes, right now, uh hmm. It's still there. Uh hmm.

Dodson: And that site then is donated by your family.

Carson: That's right. It's interesting.

Dodson: It's nice. And that was quite a sacrifice. That you first bought it back and then donated it.

Carson: Sure, you bet it was. That was very, very good. Well it's like down here at the uhm, where is it... at the uhm... you know where Universal City is, don't you? Well, where Universal City is right there, where this picture I showed you here... err, there I mean, remember? Well uhm, we donated fifteen acres to this for the young boys and young girls, and they have a beautiful baseball team. And all these young ones are going there now, as keeping them out of mischief. And then up at the other end, there's a building there and they have all different kinds of things for young boys and girls, to go to. And uhm, your children would enjoy that! And that's what they're doing now. And so we feel like we did something good.

Sandra: You sure did.

Dodson: Well, I don't think there's ever been any questions about that. The name of Weddington is pretty well respected around here!

Carson: Well... yes.

Dodson: In the valley.

Carson: They thought that that would be a wonderful thing to leave for the little ones growing up. Because any kid can go there, you know? And they're happy, and they're ...?... there, and they're swinging in with their bat there. They're playing ball there, you know,

on Saturdays, and they have a good time. And it makes your heart feel good to see that they have a place to go. Keeps them out of getting into trouble. Isn't that true?

Dodson: That's certainly true.

Carson: Sure.

Dodson: Now, we've asked you a number of questions. Is there something you think of that we haven't asked about that you think should be mentioned?

Carson: Uhm, let me think if I can think of anything else. Uh, ...Oh, oh, the ...?... came from our, I told you didn't I? And the two brothers from Whitsett's sons... and uh, and on my mother's side of the family, they came from the old country.

Dodson: Oh, is that right?

Carson: Yes.

Dodson: What, which country did they come from?

Carson: From England through there. And, he was a lawyer... my mother's... there were five children there was three girls and two boys...and... he wrote to this lawyer here in the United States. And said that they wanted to come here to live and would he chaperoned and see if he could find twenty or thirty acres for them. And do you know where Gilson's is? Over here on Laurel Canyon and Riverside... I don't know if you know. Well anyhow, so... they arrived and the kids just loved it and the little girls only had socks. And when they came here, and got that ...?...over them in the cart, and rode into little

Lankershim, why, they stood up front. Oh! Those poor little girls! Just got socks and their legs are so cold! You know? But coming from that part of the country that's the way they wore socks. They didn't wear stockings, to cover their legs all up in those days! And, uh, it was very interesting. And then they built a tennis court on the back of the place there and so all the boys and girls can come and play tennis. So they all loved that and they had a good time doing that. And where Gilson's is, that's where my mother's father's brother Willie. William, why, he had that property over there where Gilson's is. And they lived there for some years. They've all gone on now. And so they sold that property to ...?... an Italian family. And they have leased that to Gilson's so much a month. They still have it now, and lease it so much a month, you see. And... that was interesting, how they came here and got the property. And then the father with his two boys, he gave one of the corners where the standard station is, on the corner of Riverside and Laurel Canyon. He gave that to one son, to start out with his wife. And then the other boy, he got the other piece of property. And that gave them... and they had to work hard, those boys did, because they, they didn't know real hard work until they had to get into the fruit business to make a living. And the father said, "You pay me... back so much... when you can afford to. There's no rush, but when you can a little bit by little." Cause he thought that was good training for them.

Dodson:

Uh hmm.

Carson:

And so... they really worked hard. And both the boys did well. They really did well. But they worked and

they had all their fruit done on their places, and it went to market. Just like our fruit went to market, you see? So everybody in those days, they worked but they had a nice time too. See?

Dodson: We're talking about fruit. One of the things ~~that~~ came up in one of my interviews, was when somebody told me about Jack Lankershim's liking to pickle walnuts! And I thought that was a joke!

Carson: No.

Dodson: I've since found out that was no joke at all and that they really did that!

Carson: That's right! Ha ha ha...

Dodson: Did your family ever did anything like that?

Carson: Oh yes. Oh heavens yes. They go down there with this big gunny sacks. And pick up those walnuts and put them in the gunny sacks and then tie them at the top, and then bring them in. And then the Bonner Fruit Company... I told you about that, didn't I?

Dodson: Yes.

Carson: Yes, all that fruit that went into the Bonner Fruit Company? And these big trains would come in and they'd load it up. And they'd be taken just in the plain can, and then they'd take them where they were going to take them, and you'd find Del Monte, and all the different labels on them.

Dodson: Ha ha ha... it's all the same fruit then!

Carson: Same fruit, exactly, and then they'd send it east! See? That's how they used to operate you see. So, that's about all... but they were all busy and it was good. Good wholesome work.

Dodson: I think we have one of the old Bonner cans in the museum, that was contributed to us.

Carson: Yeah, I believe it, I believe it! Yeah, sure! Yes.

Dodson: Do you know of any other family in North Hollywood that might be of interest to interview ?

Carson: Well I'll tell you, I'd certainly think it over!

Dodson: Well fine...

Carson: Sure!

Dodson: ...we'll be glad to know of anyone you might suggest.

Carson: Yes. I'll tell them it's not bad at all! Everybody's scared. Yeah, people are funny, they're afraid. "Oh I can't do that! I'm afraid!" I said afraid of what? You know.

Dodson: Why I just tell everybody the only difference is that we recorded it. Otherwise it's just a conversation like any other conversation.

Carson: That's what makes it real nice for everybody. That is really nice. Because you enjoy laughing and talking, touching back on the old days, I think it's very good! So, nothing wrong with it.

Dodson: Well, we've really enjoyed it. Certainly I do. This

is Sandy's first experience, but I always lood forward to these.

Sandra: I'm enjoying this interview.

Carson: Have you enjoyed it today?

Sandra: Yes, I have.

Carson: That's wonderful! Gives you a touch of it!

Sandra: I think it's uhm, I think it's good for you.

Carson: Yeah, it's good for me, too.

Sandra: To be able to talk about it...

Carson: And bring it out, because you keep things so much of it, in you.

Sandra: Yeah. It's good for you.

Carson: They say to bring things out, it's good for you.

Dodson: Yes, and it's good for those that come after us, to know what these things are like.

Carson: That's what I figure. In years to come, I won't be here and it's wonderful to think that you've left something and...

Sandra: To have helped a lot...

Carson: ...helped a lot for some young person growing up, isn't that right?

Dodson: That's right.

Carson: That's the way I look at things.

Dodson: And you see, there is one thing that we do that is different from the newspapers. Now the newspapers have the big events like who's going to war...

Carson: Yeah, that's right.

Dodson: ...and that sort of thing. But that doesn't tell people how individuals actually lived! What was going on at the time.

Carson: That's right!

Dodson: And if we don't do this, that sort of information is lost for good!

Carson: That's wonderful. This is wonderful getting information like this. That's better than all the newspapers.

Dodson: Yes, because it gives a different kind of things that they don't take up.

Carson: That's correct.

Dodson: You see, what everybody knows, nobody writes down at the time. And it's just lost if you don't...

Carson: But this...

Sandra: Yeah, it's the person's side of life that we learned from ...

Carson: That's how we learn!

Dodson:

The date is July 13, 1983. You have been listening to an interview with Mrs. Louise Weddington Carson. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Mrs. Sandra Lynn Card, associate curator of the museum. Thank you.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1994 / F

Daughter of Pioneer Valley Resident Dies

By DAVID E. BRADY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Louise Weddington Carson, the last surviving child of San Fernando Valley pioneer Guy Weddington, has died at a Studio City convalescent home. She was 88.

A lifelong North Hollywood resident, Mrs. Carson died Sunday of complications of Alzheimer's disease, said her son, Guy Weddington McCreary.

Louise Weddington was born in the home of her grandfather, Wilson C. Weddington, in 1905. At the time, the family owned much of what was then the community of Lankershim.

In 1991, Mrs. Carson's recollections of her early childhood in the rural southeast Valley were published in "Universal City—North Hollywood: A Centennial Portrait" by author Tom Link.

"At that time, Lankershim was a one-horse-shay town," she was quoted as saying. "We lived on a



Carson

anymore. I liked that."

Mrs. Carson's grandfather served as Lankershim's first postmaster from 1893 to 1915. Her father, Guy Weddington, operated the community's general store with his brother Fred for many years, and later served as president of the North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce in the late 1920s.

Her first marriage, to Tom McCreary, ended in divorce. She married her second husband, city engineer Luther B. Carson, in 1950. He died in 1969.

In 1969, the split-level, ranch-style house Carson had designed for the couple became immortalized as the residence of television's "Brady Bunch."

Mrs. Carson was also recruited by Valley College in the 1980s to record her early memories of the Valley.

"She's really the end of an era," McCreary said Tuesday.

In addition to her son, Mrs. Carson is survived by a grandson.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Hollywood Memorial Park, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. J.T. Oswald Mortuary in North Hollywood is handling the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any charity supporting Alzheimer's research.

Today's Agenda

THINGS TO DO
SEPTEMBER 7

Camera Club Slide Show

■ The West Valley Camera Club will present a **nature slide show** at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of Plaza de Oro shopping center, 17157 Ventura Blvd., Encino. Admission free. Information: (818) 761-4220.

Games, Prizes at Mall

■ **Bobbo & Kookee** will perform at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Fallbrook Mall, 6633 Fallbrook Ave., West Hills. The free program features games and prizes. Information: (818) 340-5871.

Estate Planning Program

■ An **estate planning seminar** will be offered from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Burbank Central Library auditorium, 110 N. Glenoaks Blvd. Admission free. Information: (818) 953-9737.

COMING UP SOON:

■ The Calabasas Chamber of Commerce will hold a **breakfast** at 7:15 a.m. Thursday at Savannah Cafe, 4835 El Canon, Calabasas. Cost \$10 per person. Information: (818) 222-5680.

■ An **open house** will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the **Congregational Preschool**, 20400 Lassen St., Chatsworth. The accredited, non-sectarian preschool has morning and afternoon classes for children ages 2 to 5.

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Dr. Alan Rubin, senior
Water Environment

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Manager Charles Cate
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the year 2000.

—FRANK MANNING